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Description of Content

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Title of Content: Seeking Asylum: Immigration Law in the Context of Human Rights

Author(s): Hannah Blank

Date content was submitted: Spring 2019

Abstract: The purpose of this paper is to understand the dynamic between Latin American countries and the United States in relation to asylum, mass migration and the process of legally entering the country. This explores the implications of the United States' current legislature in place and how this caters to the U.S.'s interests. Furthermore, the theoretical implementation of asylum and its political origins are evaluated in the context of organized crime and social issues that impact migration trends. The current atmosphere surrounding immigration, asylum seekers, and refugees does not encourage relationships to form between U.S. citizens and immigrants. My proposed argument is that the current asylum laws in place benefit only a select few and the requirements for asylum must be redefined. The requirements are vague enough where the definition of "well-founded fear" is subjectively decided but specific enough that one needs "evidence of persecution," which leads to the denial of asylum status to individuals that need it.

Key Words: asylum, refugee, immigration policy, immigration law, ICE, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, United States, Mexico, Latin America, South America, Central America, gang violence

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